

Stop 1: Visitor Center

Harry S Truman was born in 1884 in Lamar, Missouri. From there Harry and his family moved to his grandfather's farm near Grandview, Missouri. Harry's mother wanted her children to get a good education, so when Harry was six years old his family moved to Independence. This move allowed Harry to go to a better school than those in Grandview at the time. Harry's family first moved to a house on Crysler street, then in 1895 Harry's family moved into a new house at the corner of Waldo and River streets. It was there Harry started to make some of his first and life long friends

Activity 1)

1. Watch the twelve-minute slide show in the visitor center. _____
(After watching place a check mark in the space provided.)

From here go to the second stop, the 1859 Jail next door.

Stop 2: Harry Truman's Friends

After Harry and his family moved to the new house on Waldo, Harry quickly started to make new friends. Harry was not always allowed to play the games the other children played because he wore glasses and he did not want to break them. Since Harry was known as a person that played fair he was often asked to play the role of umpire, during baseball games.

One of Harry's best friends, Charlie Ross, spent a few years living in the jail that you see here. Charlie did not live in the jail because he did something wrong. Charlie lived here because his father was the county marshal and the marshal and his family lived above the jail. Harry and Charlie were not only friends, they were also classmates. Harry and Charlie had one major thing in common: a love of reading. They loved to read so much it is said they made a bet to see who could read all of the books in the Independence public library first. During their senior year the two of them worked together on the school yearbook. Since Charlie was a better student than Harry, he was in charge of the yearbook and Harry was his assistant. Later when Harry became president he asked his friend Charlie to come work for him as his press secretary. The Press Secretary is a very important part of the president's staff, because it is the job of the Press Secretary to keep the President in touch with the public through the news media. This was a position that Charlie Ross had earned as a successful reporter and as a dedicated friend to Harry.



Truman Home Visitor Center

Activity 2)

Answer the following questions:

1. What do you and your friends like to do together?